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Biden budget vs. House GOP: Values on display in debt fight

By LISA MASCARO and
JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For President Joe Biden, his federal budget is a statement of values — the dollars and cents of a governing philosophy that believes the wealthy and large corporations should pay more taxes to help stem deficits and lift Americans toward middle class stability.

In the view of his chief congressional critics led by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, the budget is the arena where they intend to challenge the president with values of their own — slashing the social safety

net, trimming support for Ukraine and ending the so-called "woke" policies rejected by Republicans. It's the blueprint for a summer showdown as Biden confronts Republicans over the raising the debt ceiling to pay off the nation's accrued balances, a familiar battle that will define the president and the political parties ahead of the 2024 election.

"We just have a very different value set," Biden said Friday after the conservative Freedom Caucus outlined its plan to slash spending.

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President Joe Biden speaks about his 2024 proposed budget at the Finishing Trades Institute, Thursday, March 9, 2023, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

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Biden budget vs. House GOP: Values on display in debt fight

Continued from Front

As the president rolled out his own \$6.8 trillion spending proposal in Philadelphia, Biden said he's prepared to meet "anytime" with the House speaker, the Democratic president egging on the Republican leader.

"Tell me what you want to do. I'll show you what I want to do. See what we can agree on," Biden said Thursday.

But McCarthy, in his first term as House speaker, isn't ready to present a GOP proposal at the negotiating table to start talks in earnest with the White House.

While Republicans newly empowered in the House have bold ideas about rolling back government spending to fiscal 2022 levels and putting the federal budget on a path to balance within the next decade, they have no easy ideas for how to meet those goals.

McCarthy declined this week to say when House Republicans intend to produce their own proposal, blaming their delays on Biden's own tardiness in rolling out his plan.

"We want to analyze his budget based upon the question as to where can we find common ground," McCarthy said. "So we'll analyze his budget and then we'll get to work."

On Friday, members of



Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., center, joined at right by House Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington, R-Texas, listens to remarks from House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., left, as they meet with reporters following a closed-door briefing on the budget that will be submitted by President Joe Biden, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

Associated Press

the House Freedom Caucus unveiled their ideas to slash spending by returning to fiscal year 2022 levels and allowing for 1% annual growth over the next 10 years.

The Freedom Caucus wants to roll back an estimated \$400 billion in Biden's student loan relief and claw back all unspent COVID-19 funds. Overall, the group said its plan would save roughly \$3 trillion.

"Simply put, the plan is to shrink Washington and grow America," said Republican Rep. Scott Perry of Pennsylvania, the cau-

cus chairman. It's a fresh take on the budget battles of a decade ago when Biden, as vice president, confronted an earlier generation of "tea party" House Republicans eager to cut the debt load and balance budgets.

What's changed in the decade since is the solidifying of the GOP's MAGA wing, inspired by the Trump-era Make American Great Again slogan, to turn the fiscal battles into cultural wars. The nation's total debt load has almost doubled during that time to \$31 trillion.

The new era of House Republicans see the coming debt ceiling fight as a battle for their very existence — a test of their mandate in the new House majority to push back against liberals in Washington.

Republican lawmakers grilled Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen Friday over the president's proposal and aired other grievances about the administration. At a House hearing, Republicans asked Yellen to apologize over calling inflation transitory in 2021. "We really should hear 'I'm sorry,'" said Rep. Carol Miller, R-W.

Va.

When Yellen was asked to justify Biden's budget proposal, she said, "The president's focus is on hard-working families who are struggling to make ends meet."

As pressure mounts on McCarthy, the president is trying to steal some thunder as he rolled out a proposal this week that spotlights deficit reductions that are a centerpiece of GOP goals.

Biden's approach is a turnaround from the start of the year when he refused to negotiate with Republicans, demanding Congress send him a straightforward bill to raise the debt limit. At the time, the president wouldn't entertain a conversation about spending changes McCarthy committed to as part of his campaign to become speaker.

The White House's budget plan would cut the deficit by \$2.9 trillion over 10 years, a rebuttal to GOP criticism that Biden's deficit spending to address the pandemic has fueled inflation and hurt the economy.

With his budget, Biden showed the math of how he would lower the trajectory of the national debt. Yet his approach to fiscal responsibility is unacceptable to Republicans, since it would require \$4.7 trillion in higher taxes on corporations and people making more than \$400,000.□



Dan LaMoore adjusts the hands on a Seth Thomas Post Clock at Electric Time Company, Oct. 23, 2020, in Medfield, Mass.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stan-

dard time comes to an end

Standard time giving way to daylight saving in most of U.S.

in most parts of the United States this weekend.

You'll lose an hour of sleep for one night but gain more daylight in the evening in the months ahead.

The transition to daylight saving time is official at 2 a.m. local time Sunday across much of the country.

Then on March 20, winter sunsets and spring is sprung. Until daylight saving time ends in the wee hours of Nov. 5, the sun will rise later in the morning than it has during standard time

but it will stay light for longer until the evening.

It's a good idea to set clocks an hour ahead before bed Saturday night.

No time change is observed in Hawaii, most of Arizona, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Marianas.

A poll conducted in October 2021 found that most people in the United States want to avoid switching between daylight saving and standard time, though there is no consensus be-

hind which should be used all year.

The poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found only 25% of those questioned said they preferred to switch back and forth between standard and daylight saving time. Forty-three percent said they would like to see standard time used during the entire year.

Thirty-two percent said they would prefer that daylight saving time be used all year.□

Sexual assault reports increase at U.S. military academies

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reported sexual assaults at U.S. military academies shot up during the 2021-22 school year, and one in five female students told an anonymous survey that they had experienced unwanted sexual contact, The Associated Press has learned.

U.S. officials said student-reported assaults at the Army, Navy and Air Force academies jumped 18% overall compared with the previous year. The increase was driven largely by the Navy, which had nearly double the number of reported assaults in 2022, compared with 2021. It's unclear whether the phasing out of COVID-19-related restrictions contributed to the increase, including at the U.S. Naval Academy, which is directly adjacent to bars in downtown Annapolis, Maryland.

A student survey accompanying the report found increases in all types of unwanted sexual contact from touching to rape at all the schools. And it cites alcohol as a key factor.

The military services and the academies have strug-



An entrance to the U.S. Naval Academy campus in Annapolis, Md., is seen Jan. 9, 2014.

Associated Press

gled for years to combat sexual assault and harassment, with myriad prevention, education and treatment programs. But despite reams of research, and expanded programs, the numbers continue to grow. Young Army soldiers last month dismissed videos and training as outdated, and told service leaders that small group discussions would be more effective. The increases have triggered outrage on Capitol

Hill and a steady stream of legislation. But as yet, the changes have not appeared to make a dent in the problem, although officials argue that expanded assistance programs have encouraged more victims to report the crimes. According to U.S. officials, 155 students reported assaults during the 2022 school year, compared with 131 the previous year. Of those, students at the U.S. Naval Academy re-

ported 61 nearly double the school's total for the previous year, when there were 33, which was by far the lowest of all the academies for that year. Cadets at the Air Force Academy in Colorado reported 52, the same as the previous year, and those at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York reported 42, a slight decrease from last year's 46. Not all of the assaults in the report happened while the

students were enrolled in the academies. Because students are encouraged to report assaults, they sometimes will come forward to talk about events that happened in the years before they started school there. As a result, 16 students reported an assault in the 2021-22 school year that occurred prior to joining the military.

As well, 35 cases involved civilians, active-duty service members and prep school students who allegedly were assaulted by someone who was a student. Altogether, the total number of reported assaults with any connection to a student was 206 about 28% higher than last year's total of 161.

U.S. officials provided details about the findings on the condition of anonymity because the report had not yet been released. The report was expected to be released later Friday.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a brief dip in cases at the academies during the shortened 2019-20 school year, when in-person classes were canceled and students were sent home in the spring to finish the semester online. □

House votes to declassify info about origins of COVID-19

By LISA MASCARO
AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted unanimously on Friday to declassify U.S. intelligence information about the origins of COVID-19, a sweeping show of bipartisan support near the third anniversary of the start of the deadly pandemic.

The 419-0 vote was final approval of the bill, sending it to President Joe Biden's desk to be signed into law. Debate was brief and to the point: Americans have questions about how the deadly virus started and what can be done to prevent future outbreaks.

"The American public de-

serves answers to every aspect of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Rep. Michael Turner, R-Ohio, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. That includes, he said, "how this virus was created and, specifically, whether it was a natural occurrence or was the result of a lab-related event."

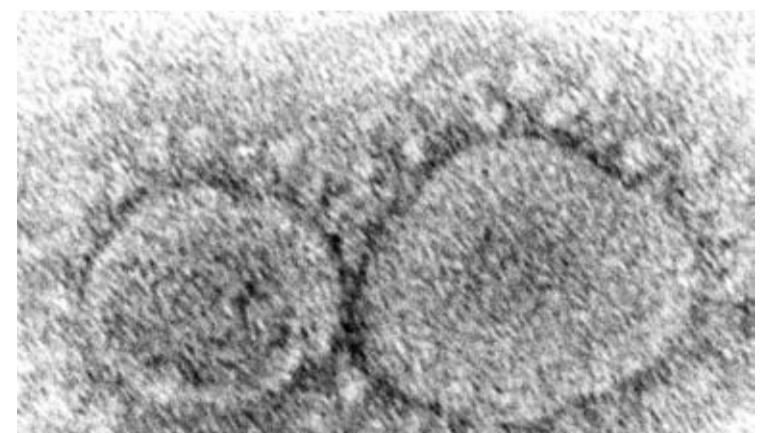
The order to declassify focused on intelligence related to China's Wuhan Institute of Virology, citing "potential links" between the research that was done there and the outbreak of COVID-19, which the World Health Organization declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

U.S. intelligence agencies are divided over whether a lab leak or a spillover from animals is the likely source of the deadly virus.

Experts say the true origin of the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 1 million Americans, may not be known for many years if ever.

Led by Republicans, the focus on the virus origins comes as the House launched a select committee with a hearing earlier in the week delving into theories about how the pandemic started.

It offers a rare moment of bipartisanship despite the often heated rhetoric about the origins of the



This 2020 electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows SARS-CoV-2 virus particles, which cause COVID-19.

Associated Press

coronavirus and the questions about the response to the virus by U.S. health officials, including former top health adviser Anthony Fauci.

The legislation from Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., was already approved by the Senate.

If signed into law, the measure would require within 90 days the declassification of "any and all information relating to potential links between the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the origin of the Coronavirus Disease." □

Judge lets 'Access Hollywood' tape into Trump rape trial

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump's misogynistic remarks about women in an "Access Hollywood" tape and the testimony of two women who say Trump suddenly attacked them sexually can be heard at a civil trial resulting from a columnist's claims that he raped her in the 1990s, a federal judge ruled Friday.

Judge Lewis A. Kaplan said lawyers for E. Jean Carroll can use the 2005 taped remarks by Trump to support her claims that she was attacked by Trump in the dressing room of a posh Manhattan department store.

He also ruled that Jessica Leeds can testify that Trump groped her and tried to put his hand up her skirt on a 1979 flight from Texas to New York before she changed seats.

And the judge said he'll allow testimony by Natasha Stoynoff, who says Trump pinned her against a wall and forcibly kissed her at his Mar-a-Lago mansion in Florida when the former People Magazine staff writer went there in 2005



Columnist E. Jean Carroll leaves federal court, on Feb. 22, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

to interview the billionaire businessman and his then-pregnant wife.

Carroll sued Trump for defamation after he denied the rape ever happened or that he knew the former longtime Elle magazine columnist after she first described in a 2019 book her encounter with Trump in late 1995 or early 1996.

In the tape, the former president boasts graphically about how celebrities

can molest women.

"In this case, a jury reasonably could find, even from the Access Hollywood tape alone, that Mr. Trump admitted in the Access Hollywood tape that he in fact has had contact with women's genitalia in the past without their consent, or that he has attempted to do so," Kaplan wrote. The judge said he was not persuaded by Trump's lawyers that the experiences

of Leeds and Stoynoff were not similar to what happened to Carroll, who said she was raped after a friendly chance encounter with Trump in a luxury department store turned violent inside a dressing room. "The alleged acts are far more similar than different in the important aspects," he wrote. "In each case, the alleged victim claims that Mr. Trump suddenly attacked her sexually."

Kaplan said their testimony, if believed, would likely "weigh heavily in the jury's determination."

A trial is scheduled for next month, but the judge has not yet specified whether it will include her defamation claims or will only pertain to rape accusations she made in November after New York state temporarily changed laws to let adult rape victims sue their abusers, even if attacks occurred decades ago.

In an October deposition for the upcoming trial, Trump was dismissive of Carroll's claims, saying: "Physically she's not my type," though he misidentified her as an ex-wife of his when he was shown a photograph.

Carroll's lawyer, Roberta Kaplan, confronted him with claims that two dozen other women have made against him, asking if any are true. "I would say, I mean, I don't see any. I mean, you haven't shown me anything," Trump responded, according to the transcript.

The Access Hollywood tape was revealed just weeks before Trump won the November 2016 presidential election. □

9th grader sues over Pledge of Allegiance confrontation

By JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The parents of a ninth grade South Carolina student who said she was accosted

by a teacher for walking to class instead of stopping and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance are suing the teacher, principal, school district and state education

officials.

Marissa Barnwell said she was walking quietly to class and decided not to stop for the pledge or a moment of silence that followed. A teacher yelled at her, confronted her and pushed her against a wall.

Barnwell was then sent to the principal's office, which she said was humiliating because she feared she was in trouble. The principal sent her back to class, but Barnwell said he never let her know that the teacher was wrong and she was right.

"I was completely and utterly disrespected," Barnwell, 15, said at a news conference Thursday, according to The State newspaper. "No one has apologized, no one has acknowl-

edged my hurt. ... The fact that the school is defending that kind of behavior is unimaginable."

Barnwell's parents are suing the River Bluff High School teacher, the principal, Lexington School District 1, and the South Carolina Education Department in federal court, saying they violated the girl's civil rights and her First Amendment rights to both free speech or not to speak at all.

A state law passed more than 30 years ago requires public schools to play the Pledge of Allegiance at a specific time every day. But that law also prohibits punishing anyone who refuses to recite the pledge as long as they are not disruptive or do not infringe on others.

"The thing that's beautiful about America is we have freedoms," said Tyler Bailey, the family's lawyer. "Students in our schools should feel safe, they should not be feel threatened for exercising their constitutional rights."

Barnwell said she called her parents in tears and they said the teacher, principal or district never responded. Lexington School District 1 said its attorney is working on a response to the lawsuit and didn't have any additional comment. River Bluff High School's website indicates the teacher and principal are still working at the school.

"I was just in disbelief," Barnwell said, adding that she told the teacher, "Get your hands off of me." □



Marissa Barnwell, a River Bluff High School student, her parents and their lawyer, Tyler Bailey, hold a news conference in Columbia, S.C., on Thursday, March 9, 2023, regarding a lawsuit filed against Lexington School District One.

Associated Press

German gunman kills 6 at Hamburg Jehovah's Witness hall

By PIETRO DE CRISTOFARO,
GEIR MOULSON and
FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP)

— A gunman stormed a service at his former Jehovah's Witness hall in Germany, killing six people before taking his own life after police arrived, authorities in the port city of Hamburg said Friday.

Police gave no motive for Thursday night's attack. But they acknowledged recently receiving an anonymous tip that claimed the man identified as the shooter showed anger toward Jehovah's Witnesses and might be psychologically unfit to own a gun. Eight people were wounded, including a woman who was 28 weeks pregnant and lost the baby. Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the death toll could rise.

Officers apparently arrived at the hall while the attack was ongoing and heard one more shot, according to witnesses and authorities. They did not fire their weapons, but officials said their intervention likely prevented further loss of life at the boxy building next to an auto repair shop a few kilometers (miles) from downtown.

Scholz, a former Hamburg mayor, said the city was "speechless in view of this violence" and "mourning those whose lives were taken so brutally."

All of the victims were German citizens apart from two wounded women, one with Ugandan citizenship and one with Ukrainian.

Officials said the suspected assailant was a 35-year-old German man identified only as Philipp F., in line with the country's privacy rules. Police said he had left the congregation "voluntarily, but apparently not on good terms," about a year and a half ago.

A website registered in the name of someone who fits the police description says that he grew up in the Bavarian town of Kempten in "a strict religious evangelical household."

The website, which is filled with business jargon, also

links to a self-published book about "God, Jesus Christ and Satan."

Kippur in 2019. After failing to gain entry, he shot two people to death nearby.

Germany's top security official laid a wreath of flowers outside the hall to com-

were able to separate the gunman from the congregation.

"We can assume that they saved many people's lives this way," Hamburg state Interior Minister Andy Grote told reporters.

Upon arrival, officers found people with apparent gunshot wounds on the ground floor and then heard a shot from an upper floor, where they found a fatally wounded person believed to be the shooter, according to police spokesman Holger Vehren.

Gregor Miebach, who lives within sight of the building, heard shots and filmed a figure entering the building through a window. In his footage, shots can then be heard from inside. The figure later apparently emerges from the hall, is seen in the courtyard and then fires more shots through a first floor window before the lights in the room go out.

Miebach told German television news agency NostopNews that he heard at least 25 shots. After police arrived, one last shot followed, he said.

His mother, Dorte Miebach, said she was shocked by the shooting. "It's really 50 meters (yards) from our house and many people died," she said. "This is still incomprehensible."

Jehovah's Witnesses are part of an international church founded in the United States in the 19th century and headquartered in Warwick, New York. The church claims a worldwide membership of about 8.7 million, with about 170,000 in Germany.

Members are known for their evangelistic efforts that include knocking on doors and distributing literature in public squares. The denomination's practices include a refusal to bear arms, receive blood transfusions, salute a national flag or participate in secular government.

David Semonian, a U.S.-based spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses, said in an emailed statement Friday that members "worldwide grieve for the victims of this traumatic event." □



Germany's Interior Minister Nancy Faeser, left, and Hamburg's Senator for the Interior and Sports Andy Grote bow near flowers laid at the site where several people were killed last night, in a rampage during a Jehovah's Witness event, in Hamburg, Germany, Friday March 10, 2023.

Associated Press

Philipp F. legally owned a semi-automatic Heckler & Koch Pistole P30 handgun, according to police. He fired more than 100 shots during the attack, and the head of the Hamburg prosecutors office, Ralf Peter Anders, said hundreds more rounds were found in a search of the man's apartment.

Germany's gun laws are more restrictive than those in the United States but permissive compared with some European neighbors, and shootings are not unheard of.

Last year, an 18-year-old man opened fire in a packed lecture at Heidelberg University, killing one person and wounding three others before killing himself. In 2020, the nation saw two high-profile shootings, one that killed six people and another that took nine lives.

In the most recent shooting involving a site of worship, a far-right extremist attempted to force his way into a synagogue in Halle on the Jewish holy day of Yom

The German government announced plans last year to crack down on gun ownership by suspected extremists and to tighten background checks. Currently, anyone who wants to acquire a firearm must show that they are fit to do so, including by proving that they require a gun. Reasons can include being part of a sports shooting club or being a hunter.

Hamburg Police Chief Ralf Martin Meyer said the man was visited by officers after they received an anonymous tip in January, claiming that he had "particular anger toward religious believers, in particular toward Jehovah's Witnesses and his former employer." Officers said the man was cooperative and found no grounds to take away his weapon, according to Meyer.

"The bottom line is that an anonymous tip in which someone says they're worried a person might have a psychological illness isn't in itself a basis for (such) measures," he said.

memorize the victims and thanked police before taking questions from reporters.

Asked whether the attack could have been prevented, Interior Minister Nancy Faser said it was necessary to wait for the investigation to conclude, but she acknowledged that changes were needed in the way background checks are conducted and information is exchanged between authorities.

She said a bill now making its way through the legislative process would require gun owners to undergo psychological tests.

On Friday morning, forensic investigators in protective white suits could be seen outside the hall. As a light snow fell, officers placed yellow cones on the ground and windowsills to mark evidence.

A special operations unit that happened to be near the hall arrived just minutes after receiving the first emergency call at 9:04 p.m., Hamburg's top security official said. The officers

U.S. trains West African militaries as jihadi threat spreads

By SAM MEDNICK

Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) —

As extremist violence in West Africa's Sahel region spreads south toward coastal states, the United States military has launched its annual military training exercise aimed at helping armies contain the jihadi threat.

Soldiers from several African countries are being trained in counter-insurgency tactics as part of the annual U.S.-led exercise known as Flintlock, that began this week.

Some 1,300 military personnel from 29 countries are training in Ghana and Ivory Coast, amid surging jihadi violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group that's killed thousands, displaced millions and plunged countries into crises.

While most of the extremist activity is concentrated in West Africa's inland Sahel region in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, the violence is rapidly spreading to coastal states like Ghana, which is experiencing an upsurge in attacks by unidentified groups, which could have links to jihadis. Northern



A Ghanaian soldier performs in hook and climb drills during Flintlock 2023 on a Spanish frigate at Tema port, Ghana, Thursday, March 9, 2023.

Ghana had just one violent incident connected to an unidentified armed group in 2021 but that figure rose dramatically to 19 in 2022, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.

This year's U.S. Flintlock, a two-week event, is taking place amid growing anti-French sentiment in West Africa. Mali and Burkina Faso have ended their

military cooperation with France, complaining that the French military presence over several years has done little to stem the growth of Jihadi violence. The military juntas ruling Mali and Burkina Faso are now getting military support from Russia, and Mali is also working with the private mercenary outfit, the Wagner Group.

The U.S. says it wants to

help African countries stem the extremist threat before it spreads further across the region.

"If the instability gets too broad or too bad then it opens the aperture for other malign actors to try and influence and try and corrupt the messaging to gain access to some of these governments," said U.S. Col. Rob Zyla, deputy commander for Special Opera-

Associated Press

tions Command Africa.

While the U.S. isn't expanding the number of its soldiers in West Africa, U.S. special operations forces will continue to conduct joint trainings with partners based on their needs and requests, he said.

For the first time at Flintlock there is a site dedicated to maritime training where military forces practice search and seizure and other tactics, in order to stave off the growing threat of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

Ghanaian military officials say they worry jihadis will soon work with the pirates to make the waters unsafe which would limit economic activity for the coastal countries.

"We already know that they have intent to link up with piracy and enhance operations," said Col. William Nortey with the Ghanaian army.

As the extremist violence spreads south, Ghana is investing money to beef up security along its border, buying more than 100 armored personnel carriers, among other equipment, President Nana Akufo-Addo said in his State of the Nation address this week. □

China accuses Canada of smearing over secret police stations

BEIJING (AP) — China on Friday accused Canada of smearing its reputation over allegations China is secretly operating two overseas police stations in Quebec.

Canada should "stop sen-

sationalizing and hyping the matter and stop attacks and smears on China," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing.

"China has been ... strictly

abiding by international law and respecting all countries' judicial sovereignty," Mao said.

The spokesperson did not comment on the existence of the police stations or whether they were operated by Chinese government authorities.

Canadians of Chinese origin have been victims of activities carried out by the stations, Sgt. Charles Poirier of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said Thursday.

Canada will not tolerate any type of intimidation, harassment or targeting of diaspora communities, Poirier said.

The RCMP's Integrated National Security Team has opened investigations into the suspected police stations in Montreal and Bros-

sard, a suburb just south of the city, he said.

The Spanish human rights organization Safeguard Defenders says China has scores of such stations across the globe, including in the U.K. and the U.S.

In a report last September, it said the stations were used to "harass, threaten, intimidate and force targets to return to China for persecution."

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has previously described the foreign outposts as service stations for Chinese people who are abroad and need help with bureaucratic tasks such as renewing their Chinese driver's licenses. Such citizen services are normally performed by an embassy or consulate.

Beijing has launched dual

multi-year campaigns to bring suspects wanted mostly for economic crimes back to China, but says its agents overseas operate in line with international law. U.S. authorities say that has not always been the case. The outposts have fueled global concerns that the ruling Chinese Communist Party is seeking control over its citizens abroad, often by using threats against their families and welfare, while undermining democratic institutions overseas and gathering economic and political intelligence.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly said Thursday concerns over foreign interference were behind Canada's refusal to issue a diplomatic visa to a political operative for China last fall. □



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning gestures during a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing, Oct. 13, 2022.

Associated Press

Nine Lives Aruba Foundation celebrates its 5th anniversary

(Oranjestad)—The Nine Lives Aruba Foundation, who is in charge of rescuing cats and dogs from the streets, celebrated its 5th anniversary. Even though the organization indicated itself that it has gone through different obstacles during the last few years, it also assured that it has had many happy memories of having the opportunity to improve the lives of cats and dogs on the island.

Nine Lives is a foundation founded by two Americans, Terry Daily and Valerie Purdy Pyeron and Aruban Geraldine Kock in collaboration with volunteers who are dedicated in



saving the lives of cats and dogs. They have also promoted humane treatment for animals in order to prevent cruelty and abandonment.

Geraldine Kock, who is vice-president of the organization, explained how the idea to found a foundation for the protection of cats came to be. Terry and Valerie were frequent visitors of the island and have both noticed that people paid more attention to dogs than cats. Though they lived back in the U.S., they were very passionate about their cause. For this reason, they asked Geraldine to manage the foundation in Aruba back in 2015 while they look for donations and sponsorships in the U.S.

Nine Lives works to stop overpopulation and the abuse of especially cats. They pushed for humane treatment of animals and the benefits of sterilizations and castration for the animals. They emphasize that people should sterilize the cats and also offer them refuge and care after finding them on the streets until they are able to be adopted by a new family.

As trappers, they need to trap and collect the cats, but they sometimes let them go too. This is because they often find mothers with big litters, so they often sterilize the mothers but then let them go back to their litters. When Crijjojo trappers were unable to house more cats and dogs in their foundation, Nine Lives was founded.

At the beginning, the foundation had 12 volunteers. Now, its family has grown significantly and they have about 80 volunteers in different countries in charge of different areas. For example, some are in charge

with 13 dogs.

144 cats were under their care last year, with 21 residing in foster homes, 37 in their refuge and 87 on their Colony Street.

Geraldine assured that the organization was able to meet with Crijjojo Trappers, the Luna Foundation, SGT Pepper's and United Dogs Aruba at the Animal Welfare Alliance Aruba (Awaa), where they established a clinic for sterilization and castration only.

They are currently waiting for more people from the U.S., The Netherlands and England to come to Aruba to volunteer as vets every other week.

Last Saturday, they held their first Adoption Day of this year at a pet shop, where 4 of the 10 cats present were adopted. 2 left with families who have never adopted pets before.

Geraldine says that the importance of adoption is to allow them as an organization to keep rescuing cats and dogs, because these often suffer on the streets due to mistreatment and abandonment. With the organization, these animals can have a "second chance." □



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Enseñansa pa Empleo (EPE) with successful first Horticulture program

Oranjestad - On March 3, 2023, the first group of students completed the course Horticulture.

The Horticulture course was

a collaboration between the EPE and Santa Rosa. Mrs. Sabine de Groot, on behalf of the EPE and Minister Glenbert Croes, presented the graduates with

their well-deserved certificates.

The Horticulture course was split into two parts, theory and practice, and were both given at the Santa Rosa. For the practical part, they visited different agriculture sites and orchards.

The theoretical part gave the students insights into better techniques for plant-

ing and cultivating while the practical part taught them hands-on how to plant, explore the different methods and soil types, and which soil is best for which plant. "We are happy and proud of this group who achieved their goal of completing this course. We hope there is more interest for another horticulture course and make horticulture an important economic pillar for Aruba," the Minister of Labor, Energy, and Integration, Mr. Glenbert Croes stated.

The next course will start on April 3, 2023, and those interested can contact the EPE at 5825662. For more information, visit www.epearuba.com or Facebook@Enseñansa pa Empleo.□



ORANJESTAD - Recently the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes, met local Major League Baseball star Mr. Chadwick Tromp.

Chadwick met with the Prime Minister and presented his plans for a professional sports facility in Aruba before traveling back to Atlanta for spring training with his team, the Atlanta Braves. With his brother Jiandino Tromp, he presented their plans

for the High Rise Sports Venue. The goal is to give more baseball opportunities to the youth.

The development of the sports venue has already started in Saliña Cerca and will be built in phases.

According to Chadwick, they will work hard to make this venue a reality for the entire community of Aruba to have a professional sports venue to enjoy. Aruba is proud of Chadwick.□

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Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

Aruba is one of ten Caribbean Nations Nominated to £1 Million Earthshot Prize

Barbados, February 27, 2023 - The Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator (CCSA) has nominated thirteen different regional initiatives to the prestigious Earthshot Prize.

Each project matches the criteria set for the £1 million (\$1.2 million USD) prize, which rewards organizations and individuals who are working to enact widespread environmental change targeted at repairing the planet over the next ten years. Founded in 2020 by the Royal Foundation, the Earthshot Prize has one winner for each of the five categories: Protect & Restore Nature; Clean Our Air; Revive Our Oceans; Build a Waste-Free World; and Fix Our Climate.

The projects nominated by the CCSA hail from Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Costa Rica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad & Tobago. Along with these regional initiatives, the CCSA has also nominated another thirteen projects based outside of the Caribbean but focused on implementation in the region. Overall, the 26 projects that the CCSA has nominated highlight the amount of innovation being developed in and for the Caribbean, with cutting-edge initiatives in sustainable building materials, climate-smart agriculture, and nature-based solutions spearheading the pack.



During the inaugural Earthshot Prize, the Caribbean was at the forefront of the inaugural award ceremony in 2021, when the Republic of Costa Rica (Protect & Restore Nature), and Bahamas-based Coral Vita (Revive Our Oceans) earned top honors, while finalists Pristine Seas (Revive our Oceans) and Restor (Protect & Restore Nature), Wota Box (Build a Waste-Free World) are also engaged in the region. The CCSA hopes to replicate this success in this year's iteration. Finalists are expected to be announced in the final quarter of 2023. Racquel Moses, CEO of the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator and UNFCCC Net Zero Ambassador commented, "The Caribbean has a long distinguished history as global innovators and we are proud to highlight this at the world stage by nominating locally-led and regionally-focused projects. These initiatives are improving the sustainability of our communities and providing opportunities for new pathways in socio-economic development - their importance cannot be understated,



and neither can their innovation. We wish our nominated projects good luck in

earning the Earthshot Prize, the Caribbean the world's first climate-smart zone." □

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Ashley, Lindsay and Stacy from Canada**, who say their favorite thing on the island is the people. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!



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Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island.

You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when you visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.



Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous

Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then re-located to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

The Best Time to Visit

When you are planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time

Paseo Herencia Mall did it again!



ORANJESTAD – Wednesday night Paseo Herencia Mall celebrated International Women's Day 'En Grande' with a fantastic fashion show on the uplifted stage in the center of the mall.

With a cool DJ, outstanding lights and a great MC who kept every attendee informed of every spectacular piece presented, this spectacular show featured the beautiful new collections of selected stores, from all occasion outfits to sparkling shoes, hats, bags and sunglasses. From Tommy Hilfiger to Carmen Steffens, from Sunset Shack to Kok Optica, Aldo shoes and Amore Siciliano with straw weaved basket style bags. Perfect for those dreamy beach days or passionate cocktail nights, each and every store had stunning items to show.

The explosive opening acts were presented by two amazing dance

groups of great young and teen girls. Very energetic and jumpy and had the visitors clapping and woo-ing until the very end.

The show itself was run by gorgeous models of all sizes who presented outfits like bodysuits, body pants, flowy dresses, bathing suits and thong bikinis, pareos and skirts. All combined with gorgeous accessories like hats, bags and heels, sneakers, sandals and wedges. Everything you need to set a perfect outfit was presented. The show was phenomenal!

Paseo Herencia Mall definitely understands the appreciation for all women and has shown it with this amazing fashion show dedicated to all women of the world on International Women's Day.

To stay updated with all the upcoming Paseo Herencia Mall events, go and follow Paseo Herencia on Facebook and Instagram. □

Luna Foundation:**“We need more volunteers. More volunteers mean more rescued dogs”**

(Oranjestad)—From the time she arrives on the property at 8am up to 6pm, Zoey is still seen taking care of her sanctuary, making sure the dogs and animals are getting enough care. The Luna Foundation is a well-known organization on the island for its beautiful work and dedication for mistreated or abandoned dogs. In an interview with Bon Dia Aruba, founder and president of the Luna Foundation, Zoey Konijn, shared how the foundation is currently running and what is in store for this year.

Konijn expressed that this year started with an expansion of the sanctuary. The property expanded and the goal of this was to finally construct the retirement home for old dogs, and a yard for the puppies to play it.

She also remarked that there has been a hospital on the property since last year, but which only became active this year. This hospital is only meant for the dogs on the property.

“If they ever get sick, we don't need to take them to the vet, because we have our hospital. The only problem is we don't have a stay-in veterinarian, but the local vet comes to the hospital when needed,” she indicated.

She explained that they also have a nursery for dogs in labor. The Luna Foundation does not actually pick up pregnant dogs from the streets; they mostly only pick up dogs that have been abused by their owner. However, they do see pregnant dogs roam the streets sometimes, and they help. Their nursery has three cages where the dogs can peacefully give birth.

“The plan for this year is to start building the retirement home for the older dogs, and to make sure we take in more puppies, because other organizations are out



of space. We want to help where we can,” Konijn expressed.

To achieve this though, they need volunteers. The topic of volunteers remains a problem and Konijn highlights that many people ask for help but no one offers help to the organization that are in need of more assistance with the dogs. “More volunteers mean more rescued dogs.”

The Luna Foundation currently houses 100 dogs, and Konijn says that she is on the property every day, with others or even alone. “It's a lot of work. I'm not complaining though, I love my work, but it's not easy. The more volunteers we can get to help us in here, the more dogs we can help out there,” she expressed.

In terms of funding, the foundation has been receiving donations from Renaissance Marketplace for two consecutive years now. Konijn explained that they work every day, from 6pm to 10pm, and the funds they collected from

kids, parents and even tourists all go to the foundation.

“We work hard for this, and Arubans showed up. The island came together and showed us their support for our work, and with that fund, we can make the property even bigger,” she indicated.

The Luna Foundation is one of the 5 foundations that have joined forces to create the AWAA foundation. The task of the Luna Foundation is to provide education. This includes going to neighborhoods and schools to educate the public on how to handle their pets.

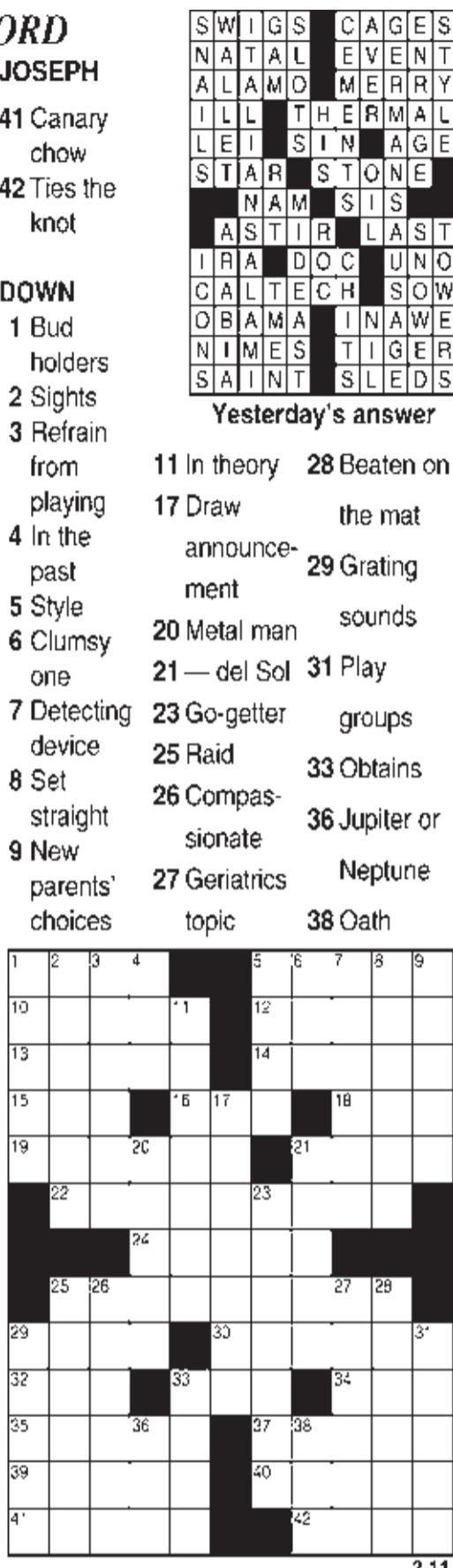
Konijn also pointed out that they need volunteers for this task too, a problem that cannot be swept under the rug after one weekend of volunteering events. “When Aruba Doet takes place, everyone is willing to help, but the foundation needs help all year round, not just that one weekend. The more volunteers we have, the more the foundation can do,” she added. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Canary chow
1 Travel need 42 Ties the knot
5 Wall worker
10 Barcelona buddy 1 Bud
12 Verdi work holders
13 Squelched 2 Sights
14 Casual fabric
15 Sense of self
16 Chart model
18 Look upon
19 Painter Georges
21 Takes in
22 Slam on the brakes
24 Boyfriends
25 Diamond position
29 One-sided victory
30 Stressed type
32 Radius setting
33 Salon stuff
34 Some crime evidence
35 Play place
37 Chris of 'The Avengers'
39 Wine grape
40 Man of many words



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

I N A B A W A B R G A F N D Y R .

W H M M R J A B L A W Q I F A Q B N Y .

— V N J H X A E H J N X N E A
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE'S NOTHING MORE EMBARRASSING THAN TO HAVE EARNED THE DISFAVOR OF A PERCEPTIVE ANIMAL. — MICHAEL CHABON



Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10			11		12				
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19		20			21				
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39			40						
41			42						

Adidas wonders what to do with Yeezy shoes after Ye split

By DAVID McHUGH

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Adidas is still wrestling with how to dispose of 1.2 billion euros (\$1.3 billion) worth of Yeezy shoes after its breakup with the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, forcing the German sportswear maker into a big loss at the end of last year and expectations of more pain ahead.

CEO Bjorn Gulden said selling the popular line of shoes would mean paying royalties to Ye, who was dropped by Adidas five months ago after making antisemitic remarks on social media and in interviews. During an earnings call Wednesday, he pointed to "many variables" about what to do with the shoes now stacked in warehouses. Destroying them could "raise sustainability issues," though some companies have offered recy-



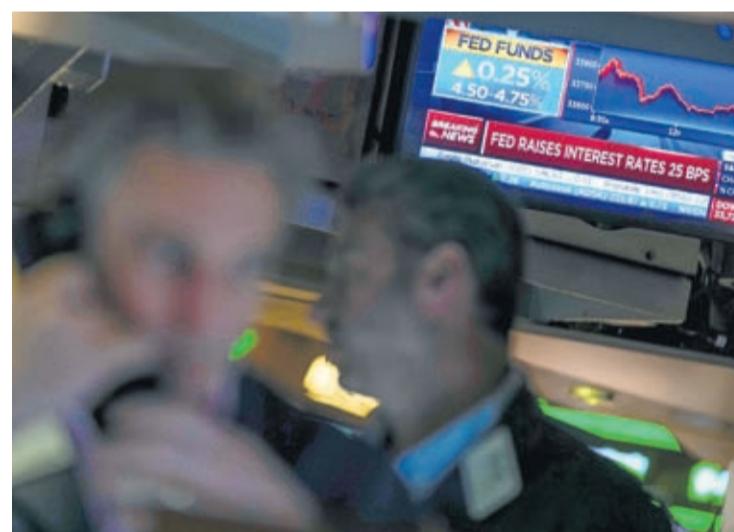
Boxes containing Yeezy shoes made by Adidas are seen at Laced Up, a sneaker resale store, in Paramus, N.J., Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

cling solutions, said Gulden, who was named CEO after the blowup over Ye's remarks. Restitching them to hide the Yeezy brand so they could be sold "is not very honest, so it's not an option," he added. Suggestions to give them away to those in need in places like earthquake-hit Syria or Turkey would mean the product would "come

back again very quickly" due to its high market value, "so that's not really an option," Gulden said. If Adidas does decide to sell the shoes, "I can promise you that the people that have been hurt by this will also get something good out of it and get donations and proceeds in different ways, shapes or forms," the CEO said. □

Corporate borrowers squeezed by rising rates



The Federal Reserve interest rate announcement is displayed on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York on Feb. 1, 2023.

Associated Press

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By DAMIAN J. TROISE
AP Business Writer

Companies that piled on debt throughout the pandemic and the economic recovery could be in for a tough road ahead as the bills come due.

Corporate borrowers will have to pay more of that debt back as refinancing grows more difficult with rising interest rates. The persistent squeeze from inflation is keeping costs high for many companies while stifling consumer demand and sapping purchasing power. Corporate debt rose from roughly \$16.3 trillion just before the pandemic hit to about \$19.8 trillion near the end of 2022, according to the Federal Reserve. Economists and analysts expect some kind of recession to hit the U.S. economy in 2023 and the severity of it could weigh heavily on both large and small companies as they repay debt. □

What time is it on moon? Europe pushing for lunar time zone

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — With more lunar missions than ever on the horizon, the European Space Agency wants to give the moon its own time zone.

This week, the agency said space organizations around the world are considering how best to keep time on the moon. The idea came up during a meeting in the Netherlands late last year, with participants agreeing on the urgent need to establish "a common lunar reference time," said the space agency's Pietro Giordano, a navigation system engineer.

"A joint international effort is now being launched towards achieving this," Giordano said in a statement.

For now, a moon mission runs on the time of the country that is operating the spacecraft. European space officials said an internationally accepted lunar time zone would make it easier for everyone, especially as more countries and even private companies aim for the moon and NASA gets set to send astronauts there.

NASA had to grapple with the time question while designing and building the International Space Station, fast approaching the 25th anniversary of the launch of its first piece.

While the space station doesn't have its own time zone, it runs on Coordinated Universal Time, or UTC, which is meticulously based on atomic clocks. That helps to split the time difference between NASA and the Canadian Space Agency, and the other partnering space pro-



The moon rises beyond a sign in the outfield during the fifth inning of a baseball game between the Kansas City Royals and the Chicago White Sox Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

grams in Russia, Japan and Europe.

The international team looking into lunar time is debating whether a single organization should set and maintain time on the moon, according to the European Space Agency. There are also technical issues to consider. Clocks run faster on the moon than on Earth, gaining about 56 microseconds each day, the space agency said. Further complicating matters, ticking occurs differently on the lunar surface than

in lunar orbit. Perhaps most importantly, lunar time will have to be practical for astronauts there, noted the space agency's Bernhard Hufenbach. NASA is shooting for its first flight to the moon with astronauts in more than a half-century in 2024, with a lunar landing as early as 2025.

"This will be quite a challenge" with each day lasting as long as 29.5 Earth days, Hufenbach said in a statement.

"But having established a

working time system for the moon, we can go on to do the same for other planetary destinations." □



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Mikaela Shiffrin gets her record 86th World Cup victory

ARE, Sweden (AP) — Moments after winning her record-tying 86th World Cup race, Mikaela Shiffrin was asked by a Swedish broadcaster to directly address Ingemar Stenmark, the skiing standout who had promised to watch at home on television.

From one great to another, the 27-year-old American spoke to the 66-year-old Swede of her respect for him and the historic mark he set in 1989 that was long thought to be beyond reach.

"No matter what I do, it doesn't ever compare to what you achieved," Shiffrin said into the TV6 camera from the lakeside resort. "Maybe I get the 87th victory, maybe not. But for me the biggest dream is to be mentioned in the same sentence as you."

Shiffrin matched the Swede's mark by winning a giant slalom on Friday. She can break the record on Saturday in a slalom race. Those are her specialties, just as they were for Stenmark in the 1970s and 80s. The reverence between the two goes both ways. Stenmark told The Associated Press in an interview last month that Shiffrin is "much better than I was."

She was certainly good Friday, especially in a standout first run that was the platform for yet another dominating win in her sto-



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin checks her time at the finish area of an alpine ski, women's World Cup giant slalom race, in Are, Sweden, Friday, March 10, 2023. United States' Mikaela Shiffrin checks her time at the finish area of an alpine ski, women's World Cup giant slalom race, in Are, Sweden, Friday, March 10, 2023.

Associated Press

ried career. Her time in the morning sunshine was more than one second faster than her highest-ranked rivals and eventually left her with a lead of 0.58 seconds to defend in second run. Clearly pleased with her skiing in the opening run, Shiffrin smiled and said "yeah" to herself after seeing her time in the finish area. "It's one of the few runs in my life where, while I was skiing it, I was thinking, 'This is good,'" Shiffrin told TV6. Shiffrin went out more cautiously under the floodlights in the fast-darkening after-

noon, tapping her ski poles together four times in the start hut before setting out with 1.04 seconds in hand over then-leader Federica Brignone.

The lead was cut to 0.57 seconds midway down the slope before Shiffrin skied cleanly in sections where Brignone's aggressive pushing had led to mistakes. The winning margin was 0.64 seconds.

Shiffrin crossed the finish line and put her hands to her helmet, then to her face and shook her head slowly while taking in the enormity

of her achievement.

"This is just a spectacular day. Oh my goodness," she said in a course-side interview. It was Shiffrin's fourth straight wire-to-wire win in World Cup giant slaloms since January. In that time, she also took gold in the event at last month's world championships in Meribel, France.

"When I was little I would never have believed some day I would be in this position," Shiffrin later told Swiss broadcaster SRF. "The whole day I was trying not to focus on that."

Shiffrin's 86th victory came in her 245th World Cup race, and on the fifth attempt to equal Stenmark's record since she won her 85th race in January.

"It's been on my mind. It's been quite tough to focus the last few weeks," said Shiffrin, who hugged her mother and coach, Eileen, in the finish area.

Brignone made a theatrical bow toward Shiffrin in the finish-area ceremony. The podium included Olympic champion Sara Hector of Sweden, who finished 0.92 seconds behind in third.

Shiffrin also clinched the season-long World Cup giant slalom title to secure her 15th career crystal globe trophy. She already won her fifth overall World Cup title and the slalom title this season.

Schneider got her wins between 1984 and 1992.

The Swiss racer, like Shiffrin, also has Olympic and world championship gold medals in both giant slalom and slalom.

Shiffrin won her first World Cup race in Are, a slalom in December 2012, and then earned two gold medals at the 2019 worlds at the Swedish resort. It was also where she was due to race again in March 2020 after the death of her father the previous month, but the races were called off because of the coronavirus pandemic. □

'Take it or leave it': Fury wants 70-30 split to fight Usyk

LONDON (AP) — Tyson Fury is only interested in fighting Oleksandr Usyk to become undisputed world heavyweight champion if he gets 70% of the earnings from the bout.

Time looks to be running out to arrange a deal between the two titleholders, with Usyk's promoter, Alex Krassiyuk, saying the latest offer -- a 60-40 split to the winner -- has been rejected by Fury and his camp.

Fury, the WBC champion, took to Instagram on Friday

to make clear his demands. "I see all this talk about boxing fights, that they want 50%, Tyson being greedy," Fury said in a video. "Where I'm standing: Usyk, you and your team are worth 30%."

"You either take it or leave it."

Usyk, who owns the WBO, WBA and IBF belts, could instead fight British boxer Daniel Dubois, according to Krassiyuk. Dubois holds the WBA regular title and is a mandatory challenger for Usyk.

"If you don't want it, go and fight Daniel Dubois in the Copper Box (in London) and get a few million dollars," Fury said. "If you want to make some real money, come and fight the Gypsy King."

Fury added in the video on Instagram stories that he would deduct 1% of the 30% offered to Usyk for every day the Ukrainian boxer doesn't commit to the fight. April 29 is a date that has been planned for a potential Fury-Usyk fight, which



Britain's Tyson Fury, center, celebrates after beating Britain's Dillian Whyte during their WBC heavyweight title boxing fight at Wembley Stadium in London, Saturday, April 23, 2022.

Associated Press

would likely take place in London. The last boxer to hold all the

world heavyweight titles at the same time was Lennox Lewis in 1999-2000. □

Future of Lamar Jackson, Aaron Rodgers clouds free agency

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

NFL free agency kicks off next week and the biggest questions surround two star quarterbacks who aren't on the list.

Will Aaron Rodgers retire, return to Green Bay or get traded to the Jets or another team?

Will Lamar Jackson get a contract offer from any team knowing Baltimore can match it?

The league's legal tampering period opens Monday and plenty of free agents will be on the move when players can officially start signing new deals Wednesday. Quarterbacks, of course, get the most money and attention.

Derek Carr, Geno Smith and Daniel Jones are already off the market after receiving huge contracts this week. The Ravens gave Jackson a nonexclusive franchise tag so he can negotiate with other teams. Jackson would make \$32.4 million if he plays this season on the nonexclusive tag. If Baltimore lets him go, it'll receive two first-round picks. Some teams may be reluctant to pursue Jackson knowing the Ravens could end up keeping the 2019 NFL MVP. But it only takes one team to come up with a contract structured in a way perhaps more guaranteed money than Baltimore wants to pay to snatch the dynamic QB.



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson speaks to the media at a press conference after an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Oct. 9, 2022, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

"We're always preparing for every contingency," Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta said last week. "We look at every situation free agency, the draft. We're talking about any possible situation that might arise with players. In this business, you get surprised daily."

As for Rodgers, he has two years left on his contract and is due to make about \$59.5 million this season. The Packers are waiting on the 39-year-old, four-time MVP to decide his future. He could end up in New York, stay put or hang up his cleats. Until Rodgers tells the Packers what he wants

to do, they're in a holding pattern.

"Free agency's coming up here. That's an important part of what we're doing. So it'd be nice to have some answers before then," Packers GM Brian Gutekunst said last week. "But until we have any conversations, we're still in a good spot."

The most accomplished quarterback among the unrestricted free agents is Jimmy Garoppolo. He's 44-19 as a starter, including 4-2 in the playoffs and has been to one Super Bowl and an NFC championship game.

Jacoby Brissett, Gardner

Minshew, Taylor Heinicke, Andy Dalton, Jameis Winston, Baker Mayfield, Teddy Bridgewater, Sam Darnold and Carson Wentz are also free agents. A few could get opportunities to start for teams who are grooming a rookie.

Beyond the QBs, the top players available play in the trenches.

Chiefs four-time Pro Bowl left tackle Orlando Brown Jr. headlines the list. Kansas City's decision not to use the franchise tag on Brown surprised many and now he hits the open market with a huge payday awaiting.

San Francisco right tackle Mike McGlinchey, Atlanta

left tackle Kaleb McGary and Jacksonville left tackle Jawann Taylor are also going to get huge deals.

On the defensive line, Eagles tackle Javon Hargrave leads the list. Hargrave had a career-best 11 sacks in 2022. Denver's Dre'Mont Jones and Arizona's Zach Allen are also top talents.

Four defensive backs are among the top-tier free agents set to test the market. Buccaneers cornerback Jamel Dean, Eagles cornerback James Bradberry, Bengals safety Jessie Bates III and Eagles safety C.J. Gardner-Johnson are among a strong group.

Bobby Wagner, Buffalo's Tremaine Edwards, Tampa Bay's Lavonte David and Tennessee's David Long Jr. are the top linebackers.

The wide receiver and tight end positions are thin. Odell Beckham Jr., who missed last season following ACL surgery, and New England's Jakobi Meyers should get the biggest deals among wideouts. Dallas' Dalton Schultz, Miami's Mike Gesecki and Cincinnati's Hayden Hurst stand out among tight ends.

Running back is deep despite Saquon Barkley, Josh Jacobs and Tony Pollard getting the franchise tag. Philadelphia's Miles Sanders, Detroit's Jamaal Williams, Chicago's David Montgomery and Seattle's Rashaad Penny are among the available runners. □

Gurriel, Iglesias agree to minor league deals with Marlins



Houston Astros' Yuli Gurriel reacts after his RBI-single during the fifth inning in Game 4 of baseball's World Series between the Houston Astros and the Philadelphia Phillies on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. (AP) — Infielders Yuli Gurriel and José Iglesias agreed to minor league contracts with the Miami Marlins.

The 38-year-old Gurriel won his second World Series with the Astros last year after hitting .242 with 40 doubles, eight home runs and 53 RBIs last year, down from 81 RBIs in 2021.

In the postseason, Gurriel had 17 hits with a pair of home runs to help the Astros win their second title in six seasons.

Gurriel adds infield depth, and the Marlins could look for him to add offense for a team that ranked in the bottom five in runs and slugging in 2022.

Born in Sancti Spiritus, Cuba, Gurriel has a career .284 batting average.

It's unclear where the Marlins could use Gurriel.

Miami acquired 2022 AL batting champion Luis Arreaga from Minnesota to play second base and moved Jazz Chisholm Jr. from second to center field. Iglesias,

33, batted .292 last season with Colorado and had a .981 fielding percentage as he made 116 starts at shortstop. Iglesias, who was born in La Habana, Cuba, has a .279 batting average and .982 fielding percentage over 11 major league seasons. He has played for six teams.

Both players were to join the Marlins on Friday at their spring training facility. Miami opens the season on March 30 at home against the New York Mets. □

Weekly SPECIALS



<p>Watermelons With Seed (USA)</p>	WAS \$9.71 \$7.99 Each	<p>Grapes Red Seedless</p>	WAS \$7.14 \$5.99 Per KG	<p>Pork Strips Shoarma</p>	WAS \$9.77 \$6.85 Per KG	<p>German Sausage (Pork)</p>	WAS \$9.81 \$6.28 Per KG
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<p>Pepper Stoplight</p>	WAS \$6.74 \$5.42 Each	<p>Chicken Drumsticks</p>	WAS \$4.56 \$2.85 Per KG	<p>Roland Light Tuna Flakes In Oil 6oz</p>	WAS \$1.55 \$1.42 Each	<p>EE Apple Juice 64oz</p>	WAS \$3.75 \$3.14 Each	<p>Roomboter Amandelstaaf</p>	WAS \$5.07 \$3.99 Each
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<p>Oreo Thins Lemon Creme Cookies 13.1oz</p>	WAS \$6.93 \$6.28 Each	<p>Kelloggs Apple Jacks Cereal 10.1oz</p>	WAS \$7.50 \$6.74 Each	<p>Plain Yogurt Zott Zottis Classic 400gr</p>	WAS \$1.59 \$1.25 Each	<p>Pillsbury Funfetti Cake Mix 15.25oz</p>	WAS \$3.23 \$2.68 Each	<p>Reynolds Parchmnet Paper 10.9 m x 38.1 cm</p>	WAS \$5.99 \$5.14 Each
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DAIRY/FROZEN	HBC/GM	DELI/BAKERY			
<p>Aberdeen Farms Sliced Bacon 12oz</p>	WAS \$4.56 \$6.17 Each	<p>Colgate Toothpaste Max Fresh Mint Fusion 6oz</p>	WAS \$4.54 \$5.69 Each	<p>Swiss Cheese</p>	WAS \$1.97 \$1.70 100 GR
<p>Almhof Assorted Flavors 500gr</p>	WAS \$5.69 \$4.54 Each	<p>Likas Papaya Herbal Face & Body Soap 135gr</p>	WAS \$6.06 \$5.14 Each	<p>Block Forest Ham</p>	WAS \$1.63 \$1.14 100 GR

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